GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:42
ANSWERED ON:26.07.2006
CIVILIAN NUCLEAR ENERGY DEAL WITH US
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Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India crossed the first hurdle of nuclear treaty with America when approval was received from the House International Relations Committee (HIRC) of the United States;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the benefits likely to be accrued in this regard;

(c) whether a three day official level talk was held between India and the US regarding nuclear co-operation recently;

(d) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(e) the stage at which the bilateral civilian nuclear energy deal with the US stands at present?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI ANAND SHARMA)

(a) to (e) − A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement referred in Parts (a) to (e) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No. 42 to be answered on 26.07.2006 regarding "Civilian Nuclear Energy Deal with US'.

(a) A Bill titled the 'United States and India Nuclear Cooperation Promotion Act of 2006' was introduced in the US House of Representatives and voted upon by the House International Relations Committee on 27 June 2006. The Bill will now have to be voted upon by the full House and reconciled with its Senate counterpart version before it becomes law. This is an ongoing process.

(b) The Bill provides the US President with waiver authority to exempt India from certain provisions of the 1954 Atomic Energy Act of the United States for full civilian nuclear energy cooperation to take place between India and the US. Such cooperation is intended to benefit India's energy security, help the acceleration of our growth rate and lead to the dismantling of technology denial regimes.

(c)-(d) Official level talks were held from 12-14 June 2006 to discuss a bilateral civilian nuclear energy cooperation agreement between India and the US and made substantial progress.

(e) India has finalized its Separation Plan. The US side has to adjust US laws and policies, and work with its friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India.